GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
FOREIGN PILOTS IN COCKPIT
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to acute shortage of pilots in the country Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is considereing to permit all foreign crew on domestic flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DGCA proposes to continue with the present regulation of having at least one Indian pilot in the cockpit, manned by foreign pilots; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. In view of the growing demand of pilots and shortage of type rated Indian Pilots, it has been decided to permit operation of air transport services with foreign pilots on a case-to-case basis, depending upon the requirement and justification given by the operators.

(c)&(d): In terms of Civil Aviation Requirement Section 7 - Flight crew Standards, Series `G` part II dated 08.10.1999, an Indian air transport operator can be permitted to employ flight crew holding foreign license issued by a contracting State of International Civil Aviation Organisation, to operate Indian registered aircraft, till Indian flight crew are trained and acquire appropriate Indian license and ratings. However, in view of the acute shortage of Indian type rated pilots flights operation by both foreign pilots as pilot and co-pilot are being permitted subject to operators` plan to train Indian pilots on the type of aircraft for which they are experiencing shortage.